

Amendments

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, lines 5-10 as follows.

This invention is a continuation-in-part of Vargeese *et al.*, USSN 09/426,079, filed October 22, 1999, entitled "METHOD FOR THE CHEMICAL SYNTHESIS OF RNA", which [[claims priority from]] is a continuation-in-part of Vargeese *et al.*, USSN 09/178,154 , filed October 23, 1998, entitled "METHOD FOR THE CHEMICAL SYNTHESIS OF RNA".